

# Unexpected Gift

Activity  
book



Written by  
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Illustrated by  
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*Creative  
Christmas  
Activities*

# *For Collin, Ila, and Kate.*

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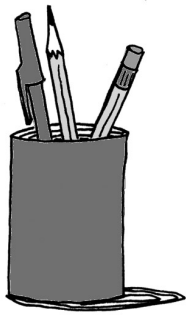
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# Introduction



## How to Use These Books

*Unexpected Gift* is made up of a storybook and an activity book. Each can be used separately, though they work best together and fully integrate with each other. There are 25 pages in the storybook, 25 activities in the activity book, and 25 ornaments to create.

## The Storybook

The storybook tells about the Incarnation and how each of the main characters responds to it. Because it has 25 pages that correspond with the projects in the activity book, you can read the storybook all at once or a day at a time. Or both!

## The Activity Book

As we learn in the storybook, the Christmas story is all about the Incarnation—God coming into the real, physical world and becoming part of it. That’s why the activity book is just as important as the storybook: it makes the observation of Advent (waiting for the celebration of Christmas) hands-on and tangible. Making an actual thing every day will help you reflect on how God made himself a physical being for us. Each project corresponds with the storybook page and ornament for that day.

## The Ornaments

Also found in the activity book, each ornament has one verse that links to both the storybook and the craft for the day. Day by day, as you add them together, you will end up with a telling of the nativity story through Scripture. You can hang the ornaments on a real or paper Christmas tree, on a string to make a garland, on your refrigerator, or your window! Whatever works for you. We just recommend hanging them where you can see them. You’re adorning your home with truth and it will be good to be reminded throughout the Advent season.

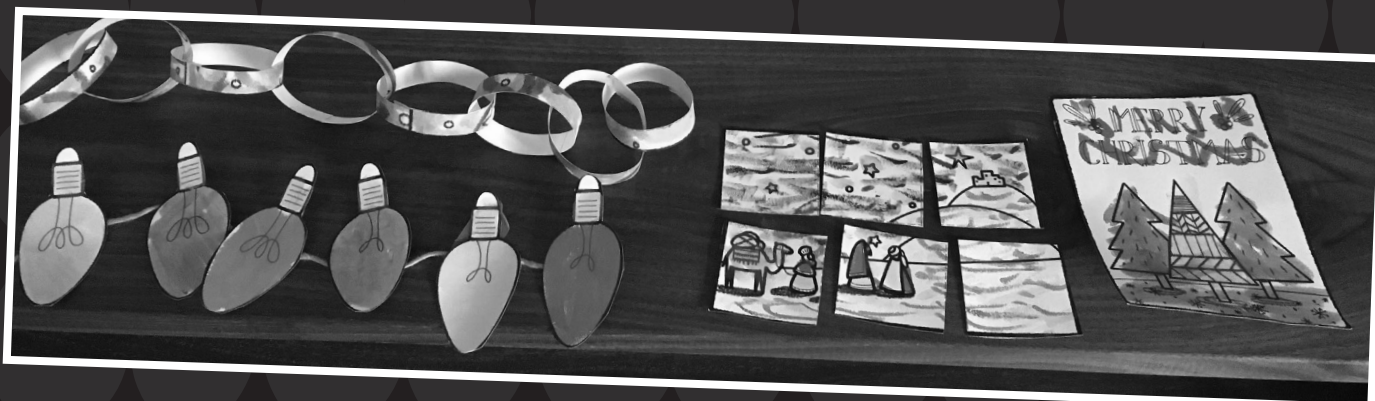
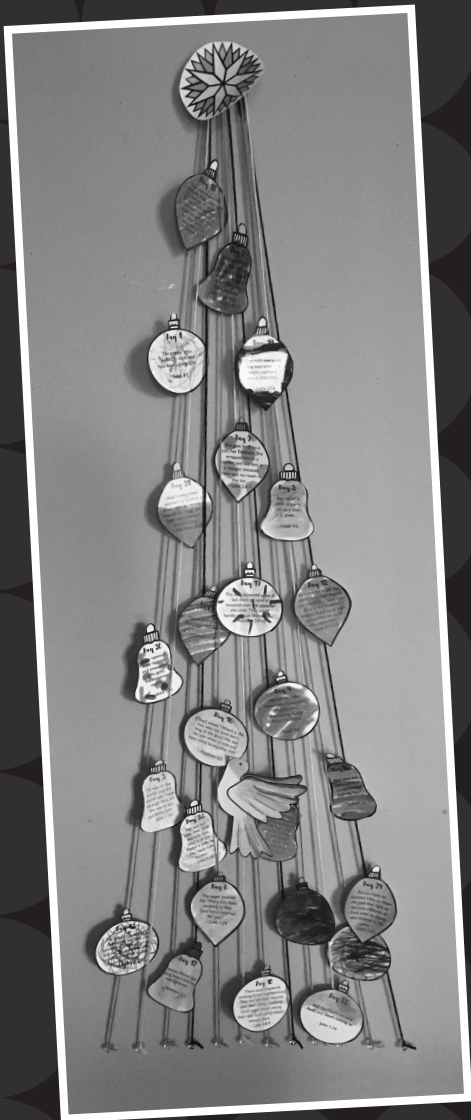
## The Appendix

If you have the time and desire, the appendix provides suggestions for ways to expand on the provided templates.

## Further Discussion



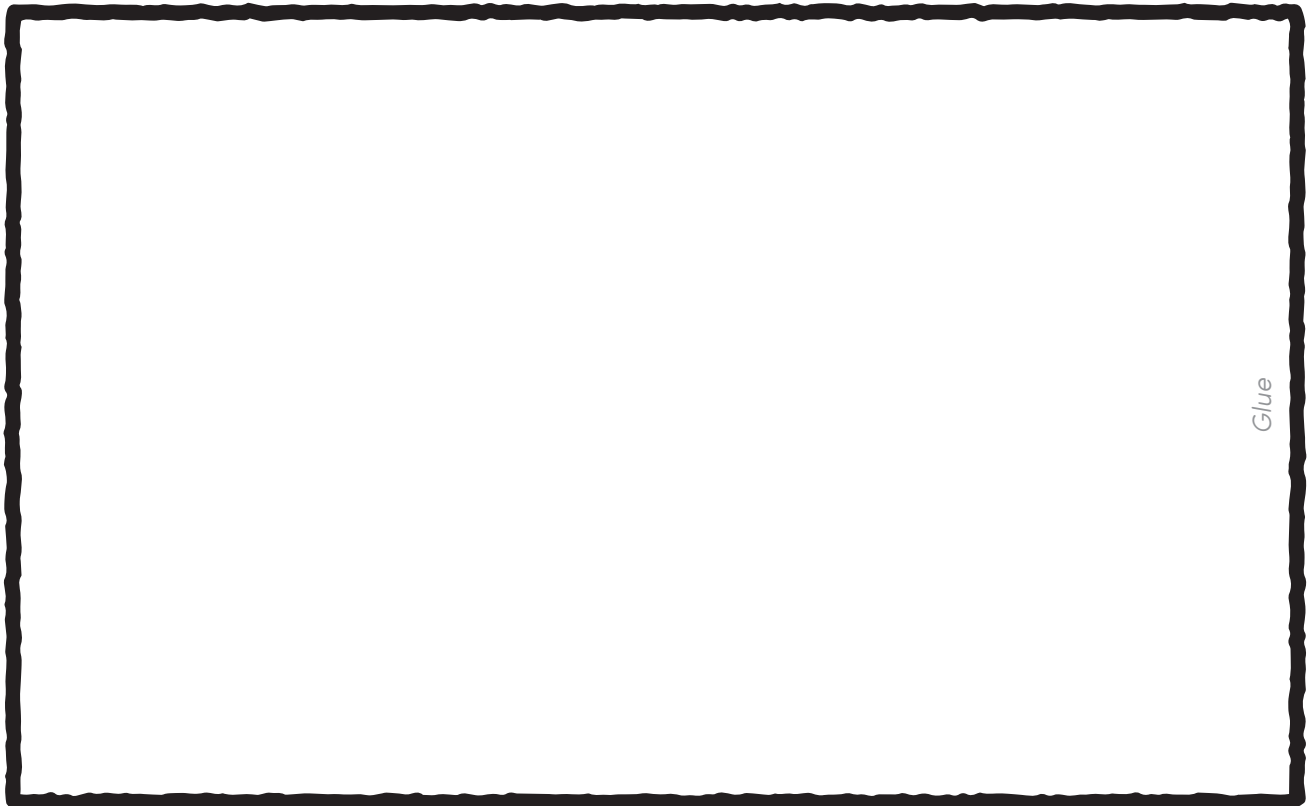
Kids have some great questions about Christmas—sometimes pretty tough questions. You can download a further discussion guide with some answers to FAQs by scanning the QR code.



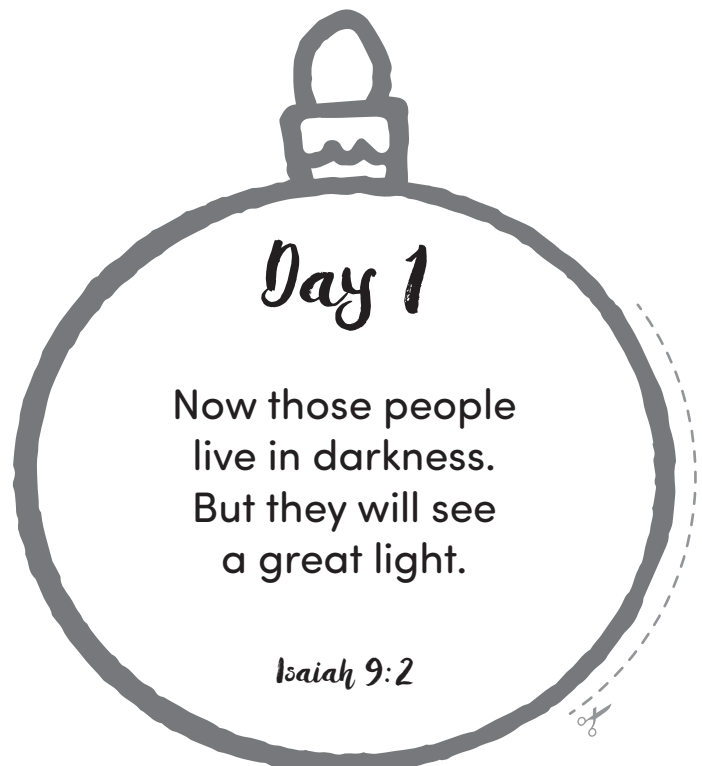
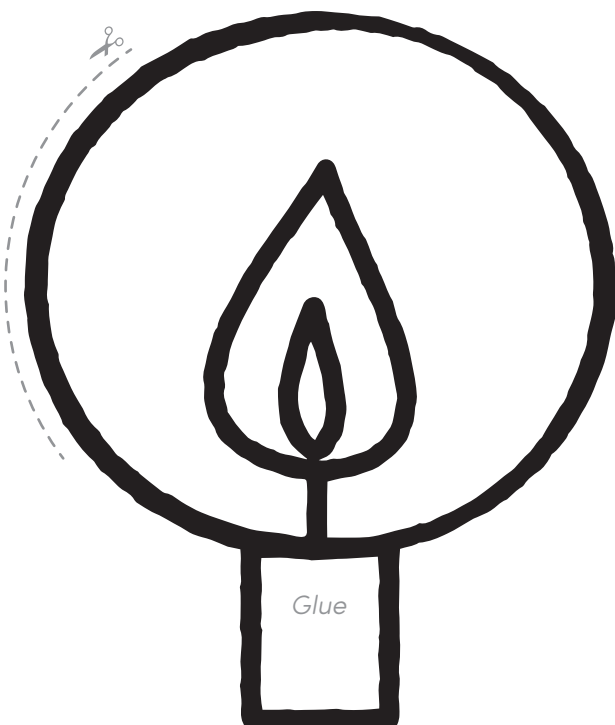
# Day 1

Even a small candle flame can push back the darkness and show us which way to go.

- Color and cut out this candle.
- Roll the base, then glue the tab and attach the flame.



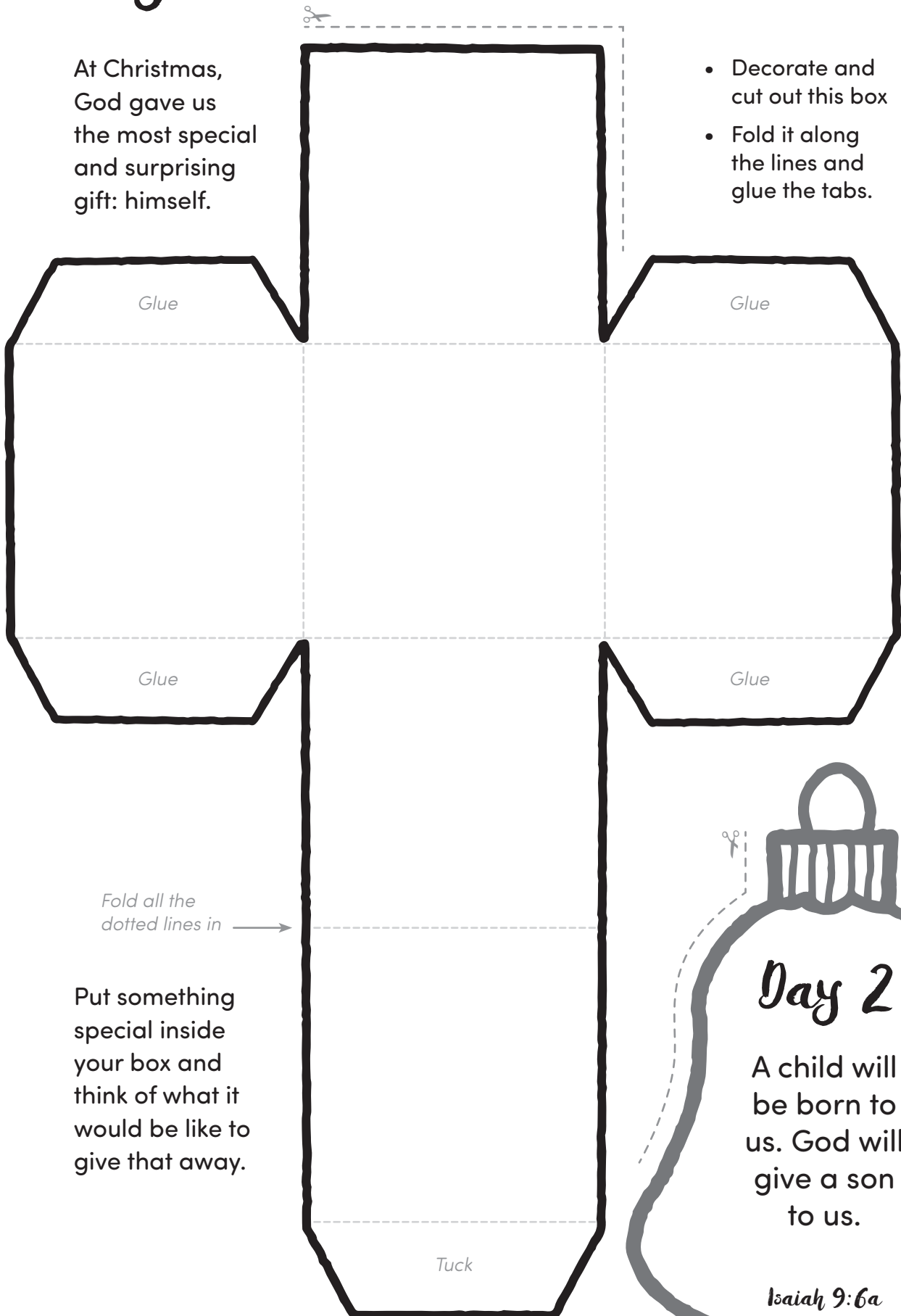
*Set your candle where you can see it and remember that what happened at Christmas was like a light that showed people the way to God.*



# Day 2

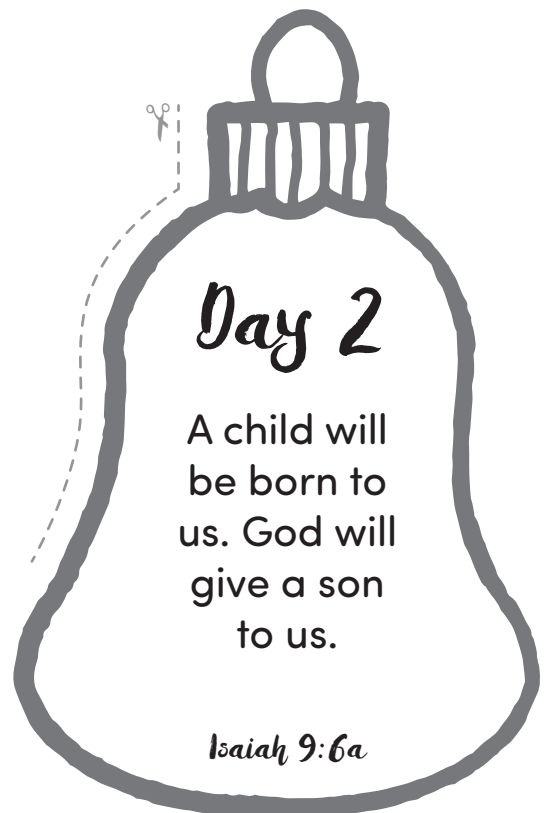
At Christmas,  
God gave us  
the most special  
and surprising  
gift: himself.

- Decorate and cut out this box
- Fold it along the lines and glue the tabs.



Fold all the dotted lines in →

Put something special inside your box and think of what it would be like to give that away.



## Day 2

A child will  
be born to  
us. God will  
give a son  
to us.

Isaiah 9:6a

# Day 3

It's hard to imagine how something can be two things at once.



- Color and cut out this baby Jesus.
- Glue the tabs

*As you choose a place to put this tiny Jesus, remember that even though he was a baby, he was also God.*

*As we work through the story of Jesus' birth, we'll add more and more people, so keep your figures together and you will build a nativity throughout Advent.*

